

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 966

To prohibit the Federal Government from planning, developing, implementing, or administering any national teacher test or method of certification and from withholding funds from States or local educational agencies that fail to adopt a specific method of teacher certification.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2001

Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To prohibit the Federal Government from planning, developing, implementing, or administering any national teacher test or method of certification and from withholding funds from States or local educational agencies that fail to adopt a specific method of teacher certification.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) State and local governments have the re-
2 sponsibility for the training and certification of
3 teachers not the Federal Government.

4 (2) The Coalition of Independent Education As-
5 sociations (CIEA), which represents the majority of
6 the over 300,000 teachers who belong to inde-
7 pendent educators associations, has passed a resolu-
8 tion opposing the monopolization of teacher edu-
9 cation and certification by the National Council on
10 Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) or
11 any other federally supported organization.

12 (3) Many States are implementing a rigorous
13 framework for preparing, certifying, and recognizing
14 the professional growth of educators.

15 (4) Having the Federal Government require
16 States, local governments, or local educational agen-
17 cies to engage in any type of teacher testing or cer-
18 tification requires Federal oversight of what knowl-
19 edge is necessary to be a teacher.

20 (5) Giving the Federal Government power to
21 determine what knowledge is necessary to be a
22 teacher will lead to a national curriculum.

23 (6) National teacher testing or certification will
24 make teachers de facto employees of the Federal
25 Government.

1 (7) Establishment of a national curriculum will
2 destroy any control remaining in the American edu-
3 cation system and is not in the interest of either
4 teachers or students.

5 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON TESTING OR CERTIFICATION.**

6 Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law,
7 the Department of Education is prohibited from using
8 Federal funds to plan, develop, implement, or administer
9 any national teacher test or certification.

10 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON WITHHOLDING FUNDS.**

11 The Department is prohibited from withholding funds
12 from any State or local educational agency if such State
13 or local educational agency fails to adopt a specific method
14 of teacher certification.

15 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

16 For purposes of this Act:

17 (1) The terms “teacher testing” and “teacher
18 test” mean any test or examination required by any
19 unit of government that requires passage of such
20 test or examination as a condition of obtaining a li-
21 cense to teach.

22 (2) The term “teacher certification” means any
23 process of education or training required by any unit

- 1 of government as a condition of obtaining a license
- 2 to teach.

